

**AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic device for playing a digital content file, comprising:

a processor configured to process a digital content file;

memory;

a watermark detector configured to detect the presence of a watermark signal in the digital content file; and

an authentication module configured to access a certificate, which indicates permissible uses of the digital content file, associated with and separate from the digital content file and determine from the certificate if how the processor is authorized to process the digital content file in the event that the watermark detector detects the watermark signal.

2. (Previously Presented) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the authentication module is further configured to access the certificate in a remote location.

3. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 2, wherein the watermark signal is a 1-bit watermark signal.

1           4. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
2           the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the  
3           digital content file may be played but not copied; and  
4           the authentication module is further configured to limit the processor to  
5           playing the digital content file.

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7           5. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
8           the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the  
9           digital content file may be not be played after a specified date; and  
10           the authentication module is further configured to prevent the processor  
11           from playing the digital content file after the specified date.

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13           6. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
14           the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the  
15           digital content file may be played one time only; and  
16           the authentication module is further configured to limit the processor to  
17           playing the digital content file only one time.

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19           7. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
20           the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the  
21           digital content file belongs to the public domain; and  
22           the authentication module is further configured to allow the processor to  
23           play and copy the digital content file an unlimited number of times.

1           **8.**    (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
2 digital content file is an audio file.

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4           **9.**    (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
5 digital content file is a video file.

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7           **10.**   (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
8 digital content file is a multimedia file.

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10          **11.**   (Currently Amended) A method for watermarking a digital content  
11 file, comprising:

12           embedding a watermark into the digital content file; and  
13           associating the digital content file with a certificate that contains copyright  
14 information including at least one indication regarding a permissible use of about  
15 the digital content file and is not a part of the digital content file; and

16           wherein when the watermark is detected in the digital content file, the  
17 associated certificate is accessed and the digital content file is processed according  
18 to the copyright information.

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20          **12.**   (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
21 embedding a watermark into the digital content file further comprises embedding a  
22 1-bit watermark into the digital content file.

1           **13.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising  
2 delivering the digital content file and the associated certificate over a network.

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4           **14.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the delivering  
5 further comprises electronically transmitting the digital content file and the  
6 associated certificate over the network to a network site.

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8           **15.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein:  
9           the delivering further comprises electronically transmitting the digital  
10 content file and the associated certificate; and  
11           the digital content file and the associated certificate are transmitted  
12 together.

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14           **16.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein:  
15           the digital content file is delivered to a first party; and  
16           the associated certificate is delivered to a second party.

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18           **17.** (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
19           associating a certificate file with a digital content file; and  
20           configuring the certificate file with permissible use information about the  
21 digital content file so that when the digital content file is processed, the digital  
22 content file is processed in accordance with the permissible use information  
23 contained in the certificate file.

1           **18.** (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein  
2 the configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file  
3 so that a user having possession of the digital content file may only process the  
4 digital content file one time.

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6           **19.** (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein  
7 the configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file  
8 so that a user having possession of the digital content file may not copy the digital  
9 content file.

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11          **20.** (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein  
12 the configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file  
13 to indicate the digital content file belongs to the public domain so that the digital  
14 content file may be played or copied an unlimited number of times.

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16          **21.** (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein  
17 the configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file  
18 to indicate the digital content file may only be processed during a specified time  
19 period.

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21          **22.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital  
22 content file is an audio file.

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1       **23.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital  
2 content file is a video file.

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4       **24.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital  
5 content file is a multimedia file.

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7       **25.** (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
8           attempting to detect a watermark signal in a digital content file;  
9           if the watermark signal is detected, attempting to locate a certificate  
10          associated with the digital content file, the certificate including copyright  
11          information having at least one indication regarding a permissible use of ~~about~~ the  
12          digital content file; and  
13           if the watermark signal is detected and the associated certificate is located,  
14          processing the digital content file according to the copyright information included  
15          in the certificate.

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17       **26.** (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein  
18          the certificate is stored in a remote location relative to the digital content file.

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20       **27.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:  
21           if the watermark signal is detected and the associated certificate is not  
22          located, preventing processing of the digital content file.

1           **28.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising  
2 allowing unlimited processing of the digital content file if the watermark signal is  
3 not detected.

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5           **29.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the  
6 watermark signal further comprises a 1-bit watermark signal.

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8           **30.** (Currently Amended) A digital content file stored on one or more  
9 computer-readable media, comprising a watermark that indicates the existence of a  
10 certificate associated with the digital content file, the certificate containing  
11 copyright information including at least one indication regarding a permissible use  
12 of about the digital content file.

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14           **31.** (Previously Presented) The digital content file as recited in claim 30,  
15 wherein the certificate associated with the digital content file is stored remotely  
16 from the digital content file.

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18           **32.** (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, wherein the  
19 watermark is a 1-bit watermark.

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21           **33.** (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, further  
22 comprising audio content.

1           **34.** (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, further  
2 comprising video content.

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4           **35.** (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media  
5 containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer,  
6 perform the following:

7               attempting to detect a watermark in a digital content file;  
8               if the watermark is detected, attempting to locate a certificate that is  
9 associated with the digital content file, the certificate containing instructions  
10 regarding the digital content file;

11              if the certificate is located, processing the digital content file according to  
12 the instructions; and

13              wherein the watermark only indicates the existence of the certificate.

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15           **36.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
16 claim 35 wherein the watermark signal is a 1-bit watermark signal.

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18           **37.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
19 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the  
20 locating a certificate further comprises receiving the certificate contemporaneously  
21 with the digital content file.

1           **38.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
2 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the  
3 locating a certificate further comprises receiving the certificate separately from the  
4 digital content file.

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6           **39.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
7 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the  
8 locating a certificate further comprises locating the certificate on a remote site.

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10          **40.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
11 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the  
12 locating a certificate further comprises locating the certificate on an Internet site.

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14          **41.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
15 claim 35, further comprising processing the digital content file if no watermark is  
16 detected.

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18          **42.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
19 claim 35, further comprising preventing processing of the digital content if the  
20 watermark is detected but no certificate is located.

1           **43.** (Currently Amended) A propagated data signal, comprising:  
2            digital content; and  
3            a 1-bit watermark embedded in the digital content; and  
4            wherein the 1-bit watermark indicates the presence of a certificate  
5            associated with the digital content, the certificate containing copyright information  
6            including at least one indication regarding a permissible use of about the digital  
7            content and being stored apart from the digital content.

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9           **44.** (Previously Presented) The propagated data signal as recited in  
10           claim 43, further comprising certificate information that identifies a location of the  
11           certificate associated with the digital content.

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13           **45.** (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43,  
14           wherein the digital content is audio content.

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16           **46.** (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43,  
17           wherein the digital content is video content.

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19           **47.** (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43,  
20           wherein the digital content is multimedia content.